



# Department of Public Safety

Mitchell J. Brown, Director

## Division of Communications

Thomas A. Trufant, Administrator

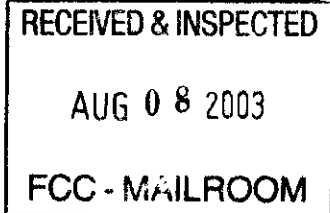
220 Greenlawn Avenue  
Columbus, Ohio 43223-2694



City of Columbus  
Mayor Michael B. Coleman

July 31, 2003

Marlene H. Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554



RE Docket 02-55

Dear Ms. Dortch:

The Division of Communication, Department of Public Safety, would like to express its support for the "Consensus Plan" filed by public safety organizations, private wireless organizations, and Nextel, in the above-referenced proceeding regarding interference to 800 MHz public safety systems.

The Division of Communications, Department of Public Safety, City of Columbus is responsible for the primary voice radio system, an 800 MHz multi-site simulcast 28 channel trunked system used by Columbus Fire and Police, the Franklin County Sheriff's Office, and many other first responders in Franklin County, Ohio. There are approximately 7,400 radios on the system being used for primary communications, mutual aid, or interoperability among some 119 agencies. We have repeatedly experienced radio interference. It is an on-going problem with no simple solution that is readily available.

Accepting the "Consensus Plan" instead of the "Balanced Approach" will:

- Eliminate most interference to critical systems used by first responders
- Is not reactive but proactive
- Provides funding for the plan
- Addresses the root cause of the interference
- Provides additional channels for Public Safety

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas A. Trufant  
Communications Administrator

03-115-TAT/lt

c: David M. Borden